



# Minidoka County

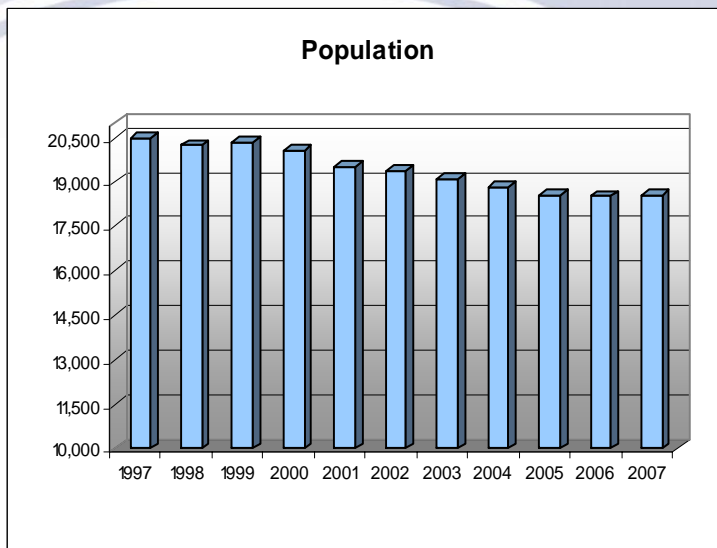
October 2008

## Work Force Trends

### Population

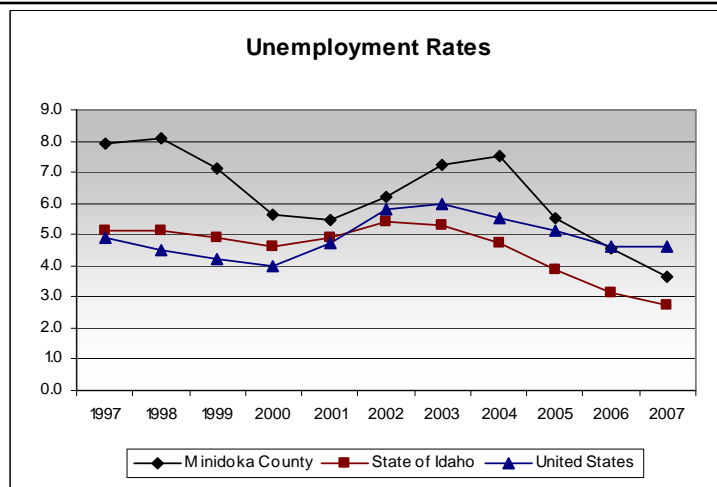
The population of Minidoka County has declined moderately from 1997 dropping from 20,495 to 18,564 in 2007 for a 9.4 percent decrease.

The area traditionally is heavily dependent upon agriculture and food processing jobs and while these are still important components of the economy, there has been recent diversification. Wages have leaned toward the low end which had been a challenge in attracting new residents. However, it has worked in their favor in attracting new businesses that are willing to pay higher wages than the area has seen in recent years, as well as, provide needed health benefits. Recent business relocations should turn around the decline in population, plus the quality of life and nearby recreation is drawing new residents to homes along the Snake River or in the new subdivisions being developed.



### Labor Force & Employment

Minidoka County traditionally has the highest unemployment rate of all South Central Idaho counties. In the last decade, the unemployment rate peaked at a high of 8.1 percent in 1998 and has reached a low of 3.6 percent in 2007. Many workers rely on fresh pack potato operators, farm jobs and local potato processing. In 2003 the JR Simplot Company closed its Heyburn Plant, displacing approximately 600 workers, resulting in a spike in the unemployment rate to 7.5 percent in 2004. Since that time, JR Simplot has donated the plant back to the city for an industrial park. Economic development activities have resulted in several new companies



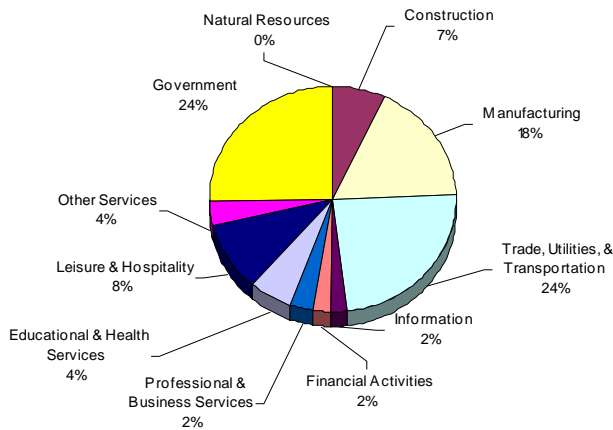
relocating to the area, including an ethanol plant that has ceased construction midstream due to budget over runs.

Minidoka County is commonly combined with Cassia County and referred to as the Mini-Cassia area. The city of Burley lies in both counties and is divided by the Snake River. This links the two counties economically. The Mini-Cassia work force has a strong work ethic and versatile transportation opportunities.

Labor Force	Sep 2007	Sep 2008
Civilian Labor Force	9,407	9,502
Total Employment	9,068	8,984
Unemployed	339	518
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.6	5.5
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.7	5.0
U.S. % Unemployed	4.7	6.1

Labor Force	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Civilian Labor Force	9,872	9,876	9,822	10,168	9,870	9,815	9,376	9,435	9,386	9,708	9,428
Unemployment	776	799	702	573	541	609	676	708	519	443	342
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.9	8.1	7.1	5.6	5.5	6.2	7.2	7.5	5.5	4.6	3.6
Employment	9,096	9,077	9,120	9,595	9,329	9,206	8,700	8,727	8,867	9,265	9,086

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2007



## Wages & Income

Minidoka County is a low-income area. Per capita income has increased from \$15,763 in 1997 to \$21,904 in 2006, almost 40 percent. Minidoka County ranks 39th out of Idaho's 44 counties in per capita income. The current outlook for income growth is positive. Kraft sold its operation to Brewster Dairy, a swiss cheese manufacturer, while Gossner continues processing cheese at its scenic location on the banks of the Snake River. With the influx of new companies to the greater Mini-Cassia area due to low real estate and labor costs, wage growth should continue its upward trend.

## Major Employers

Amalgamated Sugar  
Best Western Burley Inn  
Brewster Dairy  
City of Rupert  
Fairfield Inn & Suites  
Gossner Foods  
Kodiak Northwest  
Magic Valley Produce  
Minidoka Memorial County Hospital  
Walmart

## Occupational Wages\*

## Average Wage

Teachers	\$14.82
Registered Nurses	\$18.58
Certified Nurses Aides	\$7.01
Receptionists	\$8.38
Bank Tellers	\$8.32
Cashiers	\$6.35
Telemarketers	\$7.19
Retail Sales	\$7.49
Medical Housekeeping	\$6.18
Landscapers	\$8.37
Construction Labor	\$11.52
Food Processors	\$9.96
Cheese Processors	\$9.42
Milkers	\$9.90
Farm Labor	\$6.34

\* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor Web site at [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov).

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1997, 2006, & 2007	1997		2006		2007	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
<b>Total Covered Wages</b>	7,566	\$21,033	6,787	\$25,589	6,957	\$26,884
<b>Agriculture</b>	1,062	\$16,341	1,142	\$20,915	1,382	\$22,924
<b>Mining</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Construction</b>	288	\$19,671	343	\$27,037	388	\$28,157
<b>Manufacturing</b>	1,864	\$29,603	1,051	\$40,572	1,005	\$42,674
<b>Trade, Utilities &amp; Transportation</b>	1,588	\$21,267	1,365	\$26,066	1,292	\$28,066
<b>Information</b>	99	\$21,765	144	\$28,307	138	\$30,083
<b>Financial Activities</b>	110	\$18,090	127	\$25,027	124	\$27,564
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	193	\$16,971	164	\$32,678	162	\$33,556
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	272	\$16,270	352	\$18,372	337	\$19,842
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	533	\$7,846	538	\$9,823	549	\$10,369
<b>Other Services</b>	145	\$13,206	152	\$16,488	162	\$17,330
<b>Government</b>	1,412	\$20,698	1,407	\$25,045	1,414	\$25,999

Per Capita Income	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Minidoka County</b>	\$15,763	\$16,520	\$17,207	\$17,452	\$18,390	\$19,287	\$17,912	\$19,606	\$20,582	\$21,904
<b>State of Idaho</b>	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,077	\$25,024	\$25,221	\$25,524	\$27,361	\$28,301	\$29,920
<b>United States</b>	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,843	\$30,574	\$30,821	\$31,504	\$33,123	\$34,757	\$36,714

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office listed below:  
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[labor.idaho.gov](http://labor.idaho.gov)

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